

Message Text

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NESCO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON

SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO
PREPARE THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF
STUDIES, DIPLOMAS, AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN
EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE MEDITER-
RANEAN, PARIS 23-27 FEBRUARY 1976

1. SUBJECT CONFERENCE BEGAN IN POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE
WITH SPIRIT OF COOPERATION APPARENT. ACTING DG HARRISON
(ASST DG FOR SCIENCE) OPENED MEETING IN DG'S ABSENCE.
ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION WERE: DR. CHAMS ELDINE EL-WAKIL,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT DELEGATE FROM ARAB REPUBLIC OF
EGYPT TO UNESCO, AS CHAIRMAN; MR. ROBERTO DE ANTONIIS,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, ITALY, AND MR. SADOK BELAID, DEAN,
FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TUNISIA, TUNIS, AS VICE-
CHAIRMEN; AND MS. NATACHA POPUVODA, FEDERAL COMMITTEE
FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, YUGOSLAVIA, AS RAPPORTEUR.

2. UNESCO PLACES MORE THAN ORDINARY IMPORTANCE ON THIS
MEETING AS A FIRST EXPERIMENT IN, AND STEP TOWARD, INTER-
REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS,
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AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION. UNESCO'S LONG-RANGE

OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE POSSIBLE INCREASED MOBILITY OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY AMONG MEMBER STATES.

3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA WAS ADOPTED. DRAFT CONVENTION WAS PRESENTED BY UNESCO CONFERENCE PROJECT OFFICER, A. TRAPERO, EQUIVALENCE OF CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS SECTION, DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. MORE THAN TWENTY AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY PARTICIPANTS, ALL OF WHICH SO FAR HAVE BEEN FOR PURPOSES OF DEFINING TERMS OR CLARIFYING PASSAGES RATHER THAN RECOMMENDING SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES.

4. DISCUSSION IS PROGRESSING SLOWLY, CENTERED ON DEFINITION OF TERMS, CLARIFYING LANGUAGE, E.G., DIFFERENCE OF MEANING OF ENGLISH WORD "DEGREE", AND FRENCH WORD "GRADE", ETC.

5. DR. ROBERT HEFLING, US REPRESENTATIVE, WAS EXCELLENT CHOICE AS DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE. HE HAS COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF QUALIFICATION AND DEGREE SYSTEMS OF EUROPEAN, AND PARTICULARLY, ARAB STATES. HE KNOWS A NUMBER OF THE ARAB DELEGATES FROM PAST ASSOCIATIONS AND HAS IMPRESSED THEM FAVORABLY WITH HIS UP-TO-DATE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR SYSTEMS, INSTITUTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

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